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SOME DISSIDENTS

NEW YORK -- Disaffected Anglicans who have been seeking unity with the Roman Catholic Church found a strong ally Aug. 20 when the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith agreed that "certain Anglicans" may be admitted to the Roman Catholic Church.

The decision -- which apparently has the approval of Pope John Paul II -- was announced by Archbishop John R. Quinn, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will be charged with working out the details of the admission.

In a press conference in San Francisco, Bishop Quinn said the action was discussed in response to requests from "individuals and groups of Anglican background who have been members of the Episcopal Church." One such known group was that led by the late Canon Albert J. du Bois called the "Pro-Diocese of St. Augustine of Canterbury," which has been seeking unity since 1977.

Archbishop Quinn said "the decision applies only to persons who, while wishing to retain some elements of the Anglican tradition, fully accept Roman Catholic doctrine and the authority of the Pope and bishops."

He said terms of the arrangement include provision for married clergymen to continue in the ministry. Their ordination as Roman Catholic priests can be allowed in keeping with the customary norms and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Also, he said, elements of the Anglican liturgical tradition could be retained by such persons in liturgical celebrations among themselves.

Noting that Bishop John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States, has been informed, Archbishop Quinn said: "This new development is not meant to impede Anglican-Roman Catholic ecumenical dialogue which seeks the unity of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as sister churches."

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A spokesman for Bishop Allin -- who is in Geneva attending the Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches -- said that Bishop Allin learned of the decision a day before it was publicized. He added that Bishop Allin did not anticipate making any statement as it appeared to be a Roman Catholic matter.

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